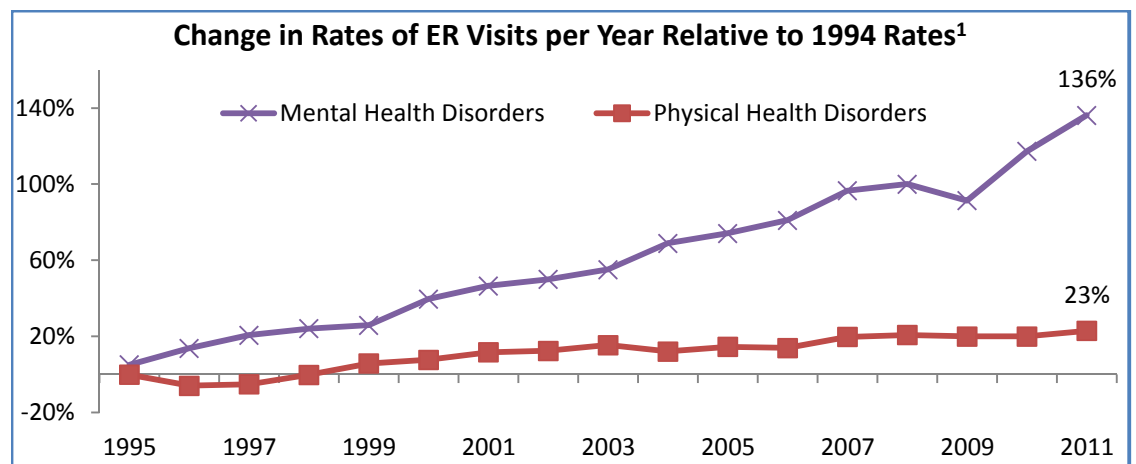


## Emergency Room Visits for Mental Disorders in Missouri



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- ✦ Missouri has seen a rise in emergency room (ER) visits in the past two decades; the state has seen a 25%<sup>1</sup> increase since 1994. Similar increases have been noted nationwide<sup>2</sup>.
- ✦ Rates of visits for mental health disorders have risen much faster (from 5.8 per 1,000 people to 13.7 per 1,000 people) than for physical health issues (from 303.9 per 1,000 to 373.6 per 1,000).



- ✦ Rates of ER Visits in 2011 for mental health disorders were highest among the 25-44 age group (21.5 per 1,000), but the rise in visits between 1994 and 2011 was most pronounced for the 15-24 (+182%) and 45-64 (+154%) age groups<sup>1</sup>.
- ✦ Rates in 2011 were higher among African-Americans (20.1 per 1,000) than Whites (12.7 per 1,000) and higher among males (14.6 per 1,000) than females (12.7 per 1,000)<sup>1</sup>.
- ✦ In 2011, rates were higher among the uninsured (4.0 per 1,000) and Medicaid users (4.6 per 1,000) than those with commercial insurance (2.7 per 1,000) or Medicare (2.1 per 1,000)<sup>1</sup>.
- ✦ Many individuals who visit the ER for mental health issues are repeat visitors who do not follow up with aftercare recommendations<sup>3</sup>. To address this issue, Governor Jay Nixon initiated the Emergency Room Enhancement Project to help these individuals link to the behavioral health and supportive services they need.

Behavioral Health



Epidemiology  
Workgroup

<sup>1</sup> Data retrieved February 13, 2014 from <http://health.mo.gov/data/mica/mica/er.php>

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Health Statistics Data Brief No. 38 (2010, May). Retrieved February 14, 2014 from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db38.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Bruffaerts R., Sabbe M., & Demyffenaere K. (2005). Predicting community tenure in patients with recurrent utilization of a psychiatric emergency service. *General Hospital Psychiatry*, 27, 269-274.